

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 OC-06

CCO-00 AID-20 RSR-01 /132 W
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R 071430Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9331

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SHIPPING AND TRUCKING STRIKES

1. PORTS OF ASHDOD AND HAIFA ARE PRACTICALLY A STATE OF CLOSURE
AS RESULT OF STRIKES BY ISRAELI SEAMEN'S UNION AND ROAD HAULERS.

2. SEAMEN'S UNION DECIDED TO PROCLAIM TOTAL STRIKE AUGUST 6 AFTER
BREAKDOWN IN TALKS ABOUT TWO-YEAR LABOR CONTRACT. ACCORDING TO
EMPLOYERS, DEMANDS BY SEAMEN'S UNION REPRESENTING OVER 1,500 MEN
AMOUNTED TO 86 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE. EMPLOYERS ARE READY TO
GRANT 40 PERCENT RISE, SIMILAR TO ONE GIVEN TO MARINE OFFICERS WHO
HAVE THEIR OWN UNION. FOLLOWING PARTIAL STRIKE WHICH BEGAN SIX
AM AUGUST 5 AND AFFECTED ONLY SHIPS SAILING FROM ISRAELI PORTS,
SEAMEN'S UNION DECIDED TO CALL FOR A TOTAL STRIKE OF ENTIRE MERCHANT
MARINE WITH INTENTION OF HALTING MORE THAN 100 SHIPS THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD. DECISION TO EXTEND STRIKE CAME, ACCORDING TO UNION SPOKESMAN,
AS RESULT OF MANAGEMENT DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN MESSES IN ELEVEN
STRIKE-BOUND SHIPS IN ISRAEL AND TO KEEP ITS SHIPS AWAY FROM
ISRAELI PORTS AND MAN THEM WITH FOREIGN SEAMEN AS FAR AS
POSSIBLE.

3. TRANSPORT MINISTER PERES HA NOT YET INTERVENED, ALTHOUGH
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HE IS EMPOWERED TO ISSUE BACK-TO-WORK ORDERS. STRIKE AFFECTS

ALL GOODS AND PASSENGERS ARRIVING AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY BY SEA.

4. PROTEST BY ROAD HAULERS AT GOVERNMENT REFUSAL TO APPROVE 28 PERCENT FREIGHT RATE INCREASE IS CAUSING FURTHER DISRUPTION TO ISRAELI PORTS. AFTER HAVING INITIATED AUGUST 5 TRAFFIC-SNARLING PROTESTS, PROTESTERS ARE NOW ALSO IMPLEMENTING THEIR THREAT TO BOYCOTT ASHDOD AND HAIFA PORTS UNLESS DEMANDS MET. GOVERNMENT OFFERED THE 5,000 TRUCKERS 10 PERCENT RATE INCREASE.

5. COMMENT. THE ABOVE TWO LABOR DISPUTES, UNLESS SPEEDILY SETTLED, WILL HAVE IMMEDIATE REPERCUSSIONS ON WHOLE RANGE OF ECONOMIC BRANCHES. GO'S QUICK INTERVENTION IS THEREFORE ANTICIPATED.
VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, GENERAL STRIKES, LABOR UNIONS, PORT FACILITIES, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, TRUCKING COMPANIES, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV06222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730852/aaaabmeh.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI SHIPPING AND TRUCKING STRIKES
TAGS: ELAB, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005